53d TEST MANAGEMENT GROUP

The **53d Test Management Group**, headquartered at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., is made up of four squadrons, four direct reporting detachments, one Combine Test Force and operating locations spanning eight states. The 53d TMG is responsible for planning, scheduling resources, developing support plans and agreements, monitoring and assisting in execution, gathering data, analyzing data, preparing and publishing reports, fielding recommendations and interim documents for Force Development Evaluations, Tactics Development and Evaluations and Operational Assessments within the 53d Wing. The group is also responsible for training wing personnel in required test management skills, to include Design of Experiment, Project Manager Training, Test Team Training and Operational Risk Management. The group is the functional manager and technical expert for testing, modification, acquisition, sustainment and certification of all Combat Air Forces' aircrew training systems. In addition, the group provides communication and information systems for 53d Wing development, test and sustainment operations; enhances CAF warfighting capability by operating, protecting and maintaining computer systems critical to development and dissemination of electronic warfare software; and develops, tests and integrates vital wing command and control systems. The group is the wing's single-point-of-contact with Air Combat Command, Air Force Materiel Command, the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center and other DoD and contractor test agencies for integrating Air Force test requirements with future and ongoing wing test and real-world efforts. The group is also the wing focal point for non-EW portions of the Foreign Materiel Exploitation program. Finally, the group monitors the ACC portion of all formal FME Quick Looks and operational evaluations conducted by the 53d Electronic Warfare Group and the 53d Test and Evaluation Group.

The **28th Test and Evaluation Squadron** has personnel located at Eglin and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base Ariz. The squadron is responsible for the management of follow-on operational test and evaluation, tactics development and software management for all fighters and bombers in the Combat Air Forces inventory. Additionally, the squadron manages OT&E of weapons and support systems in order to improve current and future Air Force combat capabilities. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for conventional and non-conventional air and ground munitions, avionics subsystems, electronic warfare systems, chemical warfare defense systems, aircrew life support, munitions and avionics support equipment, and automated mission planning systems.

The **29th Training Systems Squadron** has personnel located at 13 geographically-separated units around the nation: Eglin, Barksdale, Dyess, Whiteman, Offutt, Holloman, Robins, Tinker, Tyndall, Beale, Creech and Hill Air Force Bases as well as an operating location in Mesa, Ariz. The squadron serves as the Combat Air Forces' center of expertise for aircrew training devices. Squadron personnel provide technical expertise on all aspects of ATD life-cycle management, including acquisition, modification, acceptance testing and certification testing for all A-10, B-1, B-2, B-52, E-3, E-8, EC-130, F-15C/E, F-16, F-22, F-117, Joint Strike Fighter, MQ-1/9, RC-135, and U-2 aircrew training devices. Unit personnel also manage the CAF Simulator Certification Program. The

squadron's efforts incorporate ATD oversight and management from concept development and preliminary design review through sustainment and program deactivation. By keeping training devices concurrent, cost effective and viable, the 29th TSS guarantees training systems meet present and future warfighters' needs while supporting evolving training demands with modern technology.

The **Operational Flight Program Combined Test Force** at Eglin is composed of personnel from the 53d Test Management Group and 46th Operations Group. CTF personnel test F-15 software upgrades to enhance air combat performance, improve weapons-avionics integration, and simplify aircrew displays and controls. The OFP CTF team develops test concepts, prepares test plans, manages test execution, analyzes data, and produces test briefings, reports, and recommendations of F-15 developmental and operational tests. The CTF reports to its Air Force Materiel Command chain of command for developmental test issues and its Air Combat Command chain of command for operational test issues. The CTF has a combined annual test budget of $16 million and evaluates multi-year acquisition programs valued at more than $1.5 billion using 14 F-15C and 12 F-15E aircraft.

The **53d Computer Systems Squadron** is responsible for sustaining ACC's force development evaluation mission by providing communications and information systems for the wing's four groups. It is also responsible for automating, sustaining, and operating wing communications and information systems activities including unclassified, collateral, and advanced program local area networks. It operates the Combat Air Force Network Operations Center providing classified information services to the CAF world-wide. The NOC was designated by ACC as the interface between the Air Force Network Operations Center and other Special Access Program Information Technology network management nodes. The squadron provides network capability to fuse data from multiple test facilities into one coherent picture. It develops and maintains the computer systems required to support the development, test and dissemination of EW mission data, to include the Emergency Reprogramming Center and its contingency/wartime activations. It defines customer communications requirements and implementation plans. The squadron leads configuration management efforts for computer hardware and software usage. It provides advanced programs audiovisual support and operates and maintains a state-of-the-art video-teleconferencing capability. It manages and oversees the 53d Wing's physical security and information assurance programs.

The **59th Test and Evaluation Squadron**, located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., is responsible for the management of A-10, F-15, F-16, F-22, and HH-60 testing including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the above systems operated by the Combat Air Forces. Additionally, the squadron manages OT&E of weapons and support systems in order to improve current and future U.S. Air Force combat capabilities.

Detachment 1 of the 53d TMG, located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., is responsible for the management of B-52H including force development evaluations, tactics

development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the B-52H operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

Detachment 2 of the 53d TMG, located at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo., is responsible for the management of B-2 including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the B-2 operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

Detachment 3 of the 53d TMG, located at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, is responsible for the management of B-1B including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the B-1B operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.

Detachment 4 of the 53d TMG, located at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., is responsible for the management of MQ-1 and MQ-9 including force development evaluations, tactics development and evaluations, and software evaluations. Squadron personnel direct operational test planning and execution, as well as data gathering, analyzing, and reporting for the MQ-1/9 operated by the Combat Air Forces. Results and conclusions support DoD deployment and employment decisions.